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Other matters: proposed programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium

Draft programme of work for the 2008-2009 biennium for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of sustainable development for the biennium 2008-2009, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, decided that the programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles shall be identical to the biennial programme plan. In this connection, the Assembly, in its resolution 61/235, approved the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, which has incorporated the programme narrative, namely the objectives, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement of the sustainable development subprogramme.

2. The draft programme of work, which includes information on outputs, has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 4 (Sustainable development) of programme 9 (Economic and social affairs) of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

3. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and review the proposed outputs to be included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, which will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

* E/CN.17/2007/1.

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Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement

Objective of the Organization: to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals, targets and commitments in accordance with internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective review of and agreement on key sustainable development challenges and priority actions of the multi-year programme of work to advance implementation in the areas of agriculture, rural development, drought, desertification and Africa, including related cross-cutting issues	(a) Increased level of satisfaction by Member States with the support and servicing for the intergovernmental process, as well as an increased level of satisfaction of Member States with activities related to consensus-building, the functioning of the Bureau of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the partnership fair, the Learning Centre and the participation of major groups
(b) Increased availability of information on policy options, practical measures and concrete actions needed for the adoption and implementation of sustainable development at the local, national, regional and international levels	(b) (i) Increased number of inputs by Member States into databases on case studies, partnerships, best practices and lessons learned (ii) Increased number of visits to and downloads from the website of the Division for Sustainable Development
(c) Enhanced technical, human and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement actions and national strategies for sustainable development in energy, water and natural resources	(c) (i) Increased number of countries expressing satisfaction with advisory, technical cooperation and capacity-building services to achieve their sustainable development goals (ii) Increased number of national staff trained, resulting in enhanced knowledge and skills

External factors

The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objectives on the assumption that Governments and international institutions give priority to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), and other commitments made during the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (the Mauritius Strategy).

Outputs/activities

During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget)

(i) General Assembly — Second Committee:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Second Committee, including informal consultations (40);

b. Parliamentary documentation: follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy (3); follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2); report on new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme (1); report on the International Decade for Action, "Water for life", 2005-2015 (1); report on the International Year of Sanitation (1);

(ii) Economic and Social Council:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Council (8); meetings of informal consultations (18);

b. Parliamentary documentation: reports of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2);

(iii) Commission on Sustainable Development:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: meetings of the Commission and in-session drafting groups (200); meetings of the Commission's Bureau and related informal consultations (14);

b. Parliamentary documentation: background paper: summary information on partnerships (1); background papers on issues to be included in the Commission's work programme for 2008-2009 (10); background papers on regional water and sanitation operator partnerships (3); major group papers for the Commission (10); notes on the meeting of the Bureau of the Commission (10); overview report of progress towards sustainable development: a review of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (1); report on partnerships for sustainable development (1); report on progress in implementation of decisions of the Commission on water and sanitation (1); reports on review and on policy options on agriculture, land, rural development,

drought, desertification and Africa (10); report on review of implementation of the Mauritius Strategy focusing on the thematic cluster of issues to be reviewed by the Commission (1); report to the Commission on the programme of work and the strategic framework of the Division for Sustainable Development (1); reports on regional implementation meetings (5);

(iv) Ad hoc expert groups: expert group meeting on a 10-year framework of sustainable consumption and production in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe (1); expert group meeting on a 10-year framework of sustainable consumption and production in the Middle East (1); expert group meeting on biofuels and agriculture in developing countries: land use, trade, technology and South-South cooperation (1); expert group meeting on cross-border energy trade and infrastructure (1); expert group meeting on facilitating the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy (1); expert group meeting on fuel economy in the transport sector (1); expert group meeting on innovative finance and policies to address themes to be considered by the Commission at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions (1); expert group meetings on national sustainable development strategies (2); expert group meeting on policies for rural electrification (1); expert group meeting on policy relevance of indicators of sustainable development (1); expert group meeting on rural land reforms in Africa: review, prospects and challenges (1); expert group meeting on sustainable consumption and production patterns: delinking economic growth and environmental degradation (1); expert group meeting on water and sanitation (1); major group discussions at the Commission (2);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget)

(i) **Recurrent publications**: *Energy and Transport Newsletter* (2); innovation briefing notes (6); *Natural Resources Forum* (quarterly) (8);

(ii) **Non-recurrent publications**: A forward looking approach to implementation: report of the third international forum on partnerships for sustainable development (1); advanced and cleaner energy technologies (1); fuel economy in the transport sector (1); innovative finance and policies for sustainable development (biennial), proceedings of expert group meetings on themes to be considered by the Commission (1); measures for the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy (1); monitoring national sustainable development strategies — country experiences and the way forward (1); partnerships in action: a regional perspective on implementation (5); partnerships trend report (1); policy issues relating to carbon dioxide capture and storage (1); strengthening linkages between the agriculture and tourism industries in small island developing States (1); trends in sustainable development: a focus on Africa (1); trends in sustainable development: agriculture, land, rural development, drought and desertification (1); water operators partnerships (1);

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: brochure for the fourth cycle of the Commission (1); brochure on major groups (1); brochure on partnerships for sustainable development (1); Commission press kits (2);

(iv) Special events: international forum on partnerships for sustainable development (1); partnerships fairs, learning centres and side events at Commission sessions (6);

(v) Technical material: Commission on Sustainable Development update online (6); development and maintenance of the database on sustainable consumption and production (1); development, maintenance and updating of the Commission's case studies database (1); development, maintenance and update of the small island developing States net website (1); guidelines for major groups' participation in the Commission (2); maintenance and update of the partnership-, major groups and national information databases (1); partnerships for sustainable development CD-ROM (1); technical paper on indicators for sustainable development (1); translation of the website of the Division for Sustainable Development (1); update, development and maintenance of the Division's website (1);

(vi) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: inter-agency meetings for coordinating the work of the United Nations in the area of sustainable development: (i) UN-Water (4); (ii) UN-Energy (4); and (iii) ocean-related issues (2) (10);

(c) Technical cooperation (regular budget and extrabudgetary)

(i) Advisory services: expert advisory services, at the request of Governments and in cooperation with United Nations agencies and regional commissions, will be provided to developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition, for capacity-building and/or strengthening in such areas as formulation of national strategies for sustainable development, indicators for monitoring progress in the implementation of sustainable development strategies, reporting and indicators, facilitating partnerships for sustainable development, strengthening of institutions and providing support to multi-stakeholder consultative processes that promote sustainable development, as well as processes related to sustainable management of freshwater and energy for sustainable development, with a focus on energy efficiency and new and renewable energy resources and advanced fossil fuel technologies as well as, inter alia, natural resources development;

(ii) Training courses, seminars and workshops: training seminars and/or workshops for and with national policymakers in developing countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition with a view to strengthening national capabilities in all areas of sustainable development. These include, among other things, national cleaner technologies strategies, environmental management accounting, integrated water resources management, and energy for sustainable development;

(iii) Field projects: provision of technical services to Member States under country, regional and interregional technical cooperation projects in the area of sustainable development supported from all sources of funding.